

TAHSISH RIVER COLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Date: March 25/03

rdship Division

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ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Purpose Statement

to preserve representative and special natural features and phenomena. The key goal of ecological reserve is the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic resources. The use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Activities may be carried out but only under permit.

The purpose of the Ecological Reserve is to preserve a nationally and provincially significant estuary. Most estuaries on Vancouver Island have been developed, and this estuary is exceptional in that it is in a large sizeable wilderness park (Tahsish Kwois Park) that

encompasses the delta and estuary of the Tahsish River, the middle of the river's mouth, and all intertidal and subtidal channels. The estuary and associated island has a wide variety of habitats, and as a result has a diverse wildlife and plant life. Plant communities vary from forest to algal meadows, to surf grass and algal communities. Animals include, but are not limited to, Roosevelt elk, deer, river otters, shorebirds, Canada geese, trumpeter swans. The network of channels with various depths, flow and tidal currents in the estuary provides migrating, spawning and nursery habitat for chinook, chum, pink, sockeye, coho, cutthroat,

Representation
- ecosection

- biogeoclimatic su

Special Features

Rare/Endangered Valu

Scientific/Research Op

Representation
backcountry
destination
travel corridor
local recreation

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretatio

Representation

Response	
➤ Increase public awareness -- need boundary identification and interpretation information about the sensitivity of the areas and restrictions on access and use.	
➤ Develop a small primitive campsite close to the lowest reaches of the Tahsish River to focus recreation use away from the estuary.	
➤ Clean up and restore user created campsites.	
➤ Recruit an Volunteer Warden and develop a formal monitoring system.	
➤ Work with Conservation Officers to monitor harvesting and deter poaching.	
➤ Ensure log salvaging does not occur in the ecological reserve.	
➤ Continue to develop a working relationship with First Nations to reach a mutual understanding of ecological reserve management interests.	

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Tahsish River Ecological Reserve itself is too small to be representative; however, when considered as part of Tahsish Kwois Park, it is part of a larger protected area that contributes to ecosystem representation. Tahsish Kwois Park is the 4th largest contributor (with 5.4 %) to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecoregion (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%.

Likewise, the ecological reserve itself is too small to be representative, but when taken as part of Tahsish Kwois Park, it makes a small contribution of around 1% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is a well-represented variant with 19.3% of its area being protected.

Estuary, bear habitat, critical Roosevelt elk winter range, fisheries values, rare species

Blue-listed cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, Roosevelt elk, trumpeter swan, Canada goose (subspecies *occidentalis*). *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern* (S3-S4): bald eagle, river otter. Potential habitat for Olympia oyster (*Ostrea conchaphila*) (listed as Special Concern by COSEWIC) and *red-listed* sea otter.

Estuarine and wildlife research

on

Not Applicable
Not Applicable
Not Applicable
Not Applicable

Not Applicable

Wildlife viewing and cultural values; off and onsite interpretation (park use permit holder provides onsite interpretation)

itage

Part of First Nation trade route. Traditional uses such as subsistence hunting, fishing, food

Special Features

Other Designations

Relationship to

Co-operative Management Arrangements

Partnerships

Vulnerability

Relationship to

Area: 70 hectares

Date of establishment

botanical harvesting. Post-contact
history.

ical sites: fish weir posts, village site
the salmon season in nearby IR 11

ions

ble

stem of ecological reserves on
Island. Encompassed in Tahsish

fishery closure specific to the
reserve: intertidal clams – harvesting
First Nations and recreational

reserve values are vulnerable to
se, poaching, and adjacent log

ected Areas Strategy